



HOW CAN I GET OUT OF A GANG?

1. Never tell the gang you want out. You may be beaten or even killed.
2. Begin spending your time doing other things. Instead of spending time with your gang friends, find something else to do during that time. Look around. There are possibilities everywhere: sports, recreation centers, Boys and Girls Clubs, arts programs, drama, school activities, and even spending time with your family.
3. Try to stop looking like a gangster. For many gang members, dressing down makes them feel safe because other people are scared of the way they look. As you begin to believe in yourself, you will find that you don't need to make other people feel afraid in order to feel good about yourself. Stop wearing the clothes that you think are gangster clothes.
4. Stop talking like a gangster, acting like a gangster, and hanging out with gangsters. Find other things to say, other things to do, and other people to hang out with. (HINT: this is much easier if you stop dressing like a gangster first.)
5. Get good at making excuses. Your parents can probably help you with this, but if not, try asking a teacher or older friend for help. Some former gang members have said that when they started trying to get out, they stopped taking phone calls from their gang and had their family tell friends they weren't home.
6. Find people who support you and believe in you. Getting out of gangs isn't easy but it can be done. Find people, especially adults, who think that you are special and will keep telling you that. Begin believing in yourself. Gangs are a dead-end street.

No matter who you are, what you have done, or where you live, you deserve better.

PROJECT 180

What resources are available to help gang members and their parents get out of a gang?

The West Valley City Community Center sponsors a program that is designed specifically to aid parents and youth that are looking for help and attempting to get out of a gang.

Project 180 uses a three prong approach, **Prevention**, **Suppression**, and **Intervention**. The program **includes** counseling programs, education and job **skills training**, after school mentoring and character **development**, and a transition group to help get out and **stay out**.

If you have questions about Project 180, **or would like** additional information, please contact:

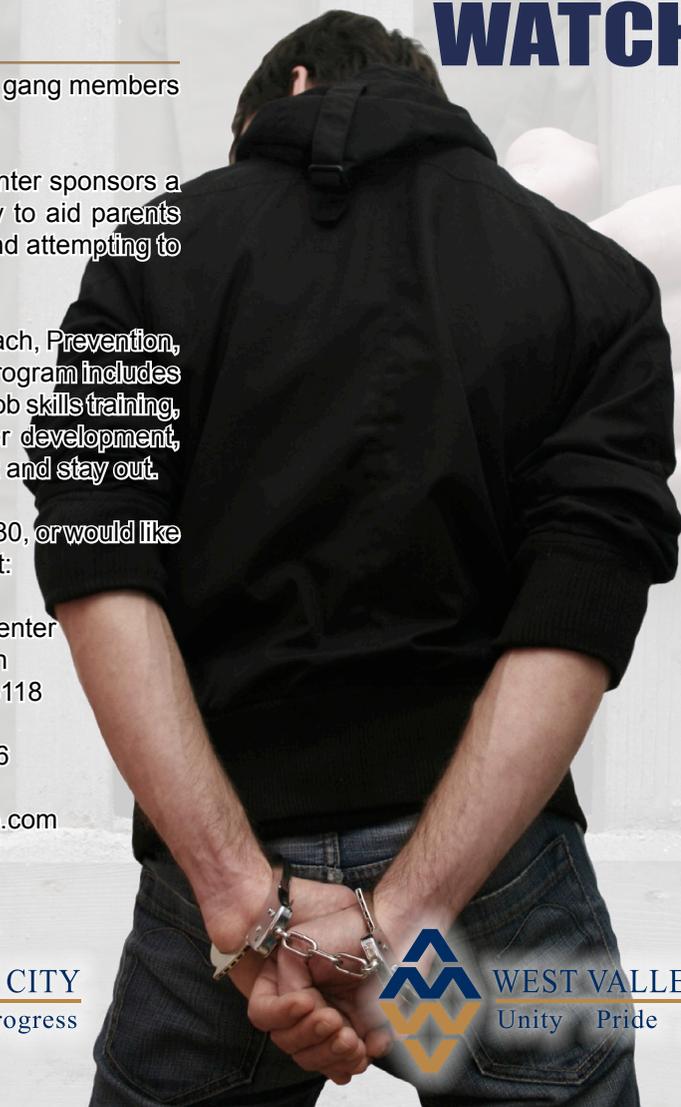
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WEST VALLEY CITY
Unity Pride Progress

GANG WATCH



WEST VALLEY CITY
Unity Pride Progress

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West Valley City, Utah 84119**

www.wvc-ut.gov/police

Gang violence across the United States has been a problem for decades, our community is no exception.



Youth gangs and the problems associated with them were once thought to only be the concern of a small number of major metropolitan areas. This is no longer true. The challenges posed by gangs provides the need for a combined effort from Police and the community.

WHAT IS A GANG?

The West Valley City Police Department defines a gang as:

“A group or association, whether formal or informal in organization, of three or more persons who have a common identifying sign, symbol, or name, and whose members individually or collectively engage in or have engaged in a pattern of criminal activity, creating an atmosphere of fear and intimidation within the community.”



SIGNS THAT YOUR CHILD MIGHT BE IN A GANG

- Changes in type of friends
- Changes in dress habits
- Gang symbols on books or clothing
- Tattoos
- Secretiveness about activities
- Extra money from unknown sources
- Carrying a weapon
- Declining interest in school and family
- Being arrested or detained by Police

Clothing, according to the style, color, and the manner it is worn might indicate that the individual, a young man or a young woman, is a gang member. Unfortunately, many of today’s youth that are not connected with gang activity have adopted the same styles and manners of dress because it’s “cool.”

QUESTIONS TO ASK

1. Does this person wear one color predominately?
2. Are they unwilling to wear a specific color of clothing?
3. Do they orient clothing, jewelry, or hats to one side of their body specifically?
4. Do they choose to wear clothing displaying one certain number?

The “gang look” is meant to intimidate those who are not in a gang. Children and teenagers who dress in clothing that resembles gang attire are showing interest in gangs and will attract the attention of gangs which could put them in extreme danger.

WHAT IS GANG GRAFFITI?

Graffiti devalues property and makes people feel unsafe in their neighborhoods. In addition to its unsightly appearance, gang graffiti can have frightening results.

Gang graffiti is often the first indication of gang activity in your neighborhood. Gang members use graffiti to gain recognition, relay messages, make threats to rival gangs, and to claim territory.

Because members of different gangs often live in close proximity to one another, graffiti can provoke violent confrontations. The longer graffiti is left up in a neighborhood, the greater the risk a confrontation will occur.

Please report all violations of graffiti to the Police Department at (801) 840-4000. It is considered Criminal Mischief especially if you know the person that has done it. If you see graffiti in your neighborhood, report it immediately to the West Valley City Graffiti Hotline at (801) 963-3467. Graffiti should be removed as soon as possible after reporting it.

